

July 12, 1976

Notes for Carter Briefing on Korea

Time - Not set, but sometime after Democratic convention and before height of campaigning season, whenever that may be. Right now, subject seems to be rather low down on list of topics proposed. Nevertheless we need to be ready very soon.

Duration - Assuming one briefing day (now set at six hours) for East Asia, a significant proportion thereof.

Accordingly, in preparing let's err on the side of excess data -- this does not mean excess prose -- nouns look better naked.

Classification - No holds barred except sources and methods.

Graphics - Lots of page size he can look at while listening.

Few or no briefing boards.

Suggested Topics - (To be discussed at meeting this PM)

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I. The Two Koreas

South

nature of the regime

political strengths and vulnerabilities

character of the opposition

economy and economic prospects

North

limits on our knowledge

more or less known difficulties and problems

the succession issue

economy and economic prospects

II. The Current State of Play Between Them

A political scenario in which the North is on the offensive, the South on the defensive:

North

Objectives - short and long-term

Tactics

toward ROK (including reunification etc. stance)

toward world at large

toward US

South

Likewise

The Current Balance

bilateral relationships (include countries with relations with ROK only)

international standing

the UN  
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III. The Military Equation

The present balance between North and South

Likely developments on both sides

The ROK nuclear problem

The early warning problem

IV. The International Implications

The major power stakes in stability along present lines

The uses and inhibitions of clientships

North Korea, Peking, and Moscow

The ROK and the US

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